commercial prudence of the importers. However, as per the prevailing EXIM policy of the Government, all commodities, including raw sugar can also be imported by actual users against Advance Licenses (ALs) obtained under the Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificates (DEEC) Scheme, under which such imports are exempted from duties but are subject to export obligation to be fulfilled within the stiplulated period.

Standards for quality of food itmes

†497. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bureau of Indian Standards have submitted any draft in respect of quality of food-items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether items not conforming the quality standards of the B.I.S. are sold in the Indian market; and

(d) if so, the steps likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has not issued a common standard/draft standard in respect of quality of food items as the responsibility of fixing quality norms for food products including conformity with Indian Standards rests with Prevention of Food Adulteration Act under Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Corruption in PDS

498. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rampant corruption prevailing in Public Distribution System, especially the nexus between the PDS official and the retail depot holders;

(b) if so, the number of complaints, regarding corruption etc., received during the last three years;

(c) whether FIRs have also been filed against officers involved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The implementation of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of foodgrains upto the nearest Principal Distribution Centre of FCI in each State/UT, the identification of BPL families, issue of ration cards and issue of licences to the fair price shops and distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/UTs. The TPDS functions through a vast network and caters to people living in all parts of the country. As such the possibility of some malpractices cannot be ruled out. Government have received occasionally complaints of various natures in this respect and these have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UTs for appropriate action. The details of complaints regarding corruption etc. against PDS officials and fair price dealers are not maintained by the Central Government.

Displaying contents on packaged food items

†499. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make it mandatory to display the information regarding ingredients and pesticides used in food items on sealed packets;

(b) if so, by when necessary orders would be issued in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) As per Rule 32(b) of the Prevention of Food Adulteration

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.